

PrairieLand Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements – Joys/Concerns



Opening Meditation

Sometimes we may think that perfection is acquired by becoming aware of our faults and working to root these out.

However, when we become more familiar with Jesus’ attitude to the limited and sinful side of ourselves, we learn to accept our limited and sinful self just as Jesus did with Zacchaeus. If we don’t accept this side of ourselves, we tend to become fixated with it and fail to appreciate the fullness of life Jesus has already given us.

So Folks, today we are reminded to be with Jesus and let him teach us to let the weeds grow with the wheat lest seeking to root them or we might fail to appreciate all that is good and even beautiful about our life.

A Call to Worship

Despite hardship, our ancestors dared to dream God-sized dreams.

Praise God for hope-filled dreams.

Do it again, Lord. Dream big dreams through us today!

Praise God for new dreams for our generation.

Invisible God, be visible through our faith today.

Praise God who empowers us with faith to see what others miss.

Will we stop building a better future because of evil?

No! Our God will deliver us from evil!

Will we concede our neighborhoods because evil walks the streets?

No! God will judge all evildoers!

Come now, Lord, and fulfill your dreams in us today!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, Holy Gardener who sustains and nurtures all life, open us today to your life-giving grace and transformative love. As we notice our internal struggles, empower us to greet the wheat and the weeds in our own hearts with care and compassion. As we recognize the challenges and suffering in our community, inspire us to meet the weeds and the wheat in our neighbors with acceptance and hope. We know that you alone have the final say, and so we give ourselves over to you as

instruments of hospitality and grace that we would tend our neighbors even as we are tended by you. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #334 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Author: Doris Akers (1962)

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**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know that it's the presence of the Lord.**

Chorus

**Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise
Without a doubt we know that we'll have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.**

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 13:24-30 (NRSV)

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin[a] and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears[b] listen!

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH#333 "I'm Goin' Sing when the Spirit Says Sing"

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**1 I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,
I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,
I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**2 I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,
I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,
I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**3 I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,
I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,
I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**4 I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,
I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,
I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

Message

Prayers of the People

O God, the Father of the forsaken, the help of the weak, the supplier of the needy, you have distributed and proportioned your gifts to body and soul, in such sort that all may acknowledge and perform the joyous duty of mutual service; you teach us that love towards the human race is the bond of perfection, and the imitation of your blessed self; open our eyes and touch our hearts, that we may see and do, both for this world and for that which is to come, the things which belong unto our peace.

Strengthen us in the work we have undertaken; give us counsel and wisdom, per-severance, faith and passion, and in your own good time, and accord-ing to your pleasure, bless our work. Pour into us a spirit of humility; let nothing be done but in devout obedience to your will, thankfulness for your unspeakable mercies, and love to your adorable Son Christ Jesus who taught us to pray, Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/Offertory Prayer

Holy God, we are living in days of division and polarization, and we regretfully confess that your church is not exempt from that statement. Regardless of where we stand, it is far too easy to look at those who see things differently and see them as weeds, stunting the good fruit we could bear. As we bring our offerings to you, the temptation to focus on our own agenda is strong. Help us to give generously without judging. Give us the faith to put them to your use, and humility to know that only you can see clearly what is wheat and what is weed. We pray in the name of Christ who knows all hearts. Amen. (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43)

Departing Hymn UMH #672 “God Be With you till We Meet Again” (verses 1 & 4)

Author: Jeremiah E. Rankin (1880)

Composer: William G. Tomer (1880)

**1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**4. God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.
(Refrain)**

SENDING FORTH

May you go forth filled with God's grace that overflows in hospitality and care for your neighbors as we work with God to bring about a new, life-giving reality for all creation. Amen.

Postlude